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KIRBY FLOWER SMITH

Dec. 6, 1862—Dec. 6, 1918

ΟΛΒΙΟΞ ΕΝ ΚΑΜΑΤΟΙΞ ΟΛΒΙΟΞ ΕΝ ΘΑΝΑΤΩΙ

In the last number of the *American Journal of Philology* there was neither time nor space for more than a brief announcement of the sudden death of KIRBY FLOWER SMITH, Professor of Latin in the Johns Hopkins University, and one of the stays of the *Journal*. In any case the poignant grief at the loss of the man would not suffer those whose work lay nearest to his to attempt an estimate of what he had wrought as teacher, scholar, author. Since then friends and admirers have vied with one another in telling of his splendid achievements in the cause of classical learning, so that I, to whom he was very near and very dear, am left to bring this belated tribute to his memory.

A part of the Johns Hopkins from its earliest days, it has been my lot to do honour to many of those who have been summoned from the service of the University to life in another world than ours. It is a long procession that passes through the lych-gate of my memory—president, trustee, colleague, pupil. But the death of none of those fellow-workers has made me feel so inly a touch of grief as the withdrawal of one who called me not only teacher and friend but foster-father.

To use the words of a master poet, 'He stood beside me like my youth'; and to me he was always young. Counting by years, he was not young at the time of his departure; for he had rounded his fifty-sixth year, and had fulfilled the ideal of a man of letters, as set forth by a man of letters. He had completed one monumental work, and given to the world sundry episodes.<sup>1</sup> Fifty-six is an age before which many

<sup>1</sup>The *Elegies of Albius Tibullus*; edited with Introduction and Notes (New York, 1913); *Archaisms of Terence* mentioned in the Commentary of Donatus (J. H. U. Diss., 1890); *An Historical Study of the Werwolf in Literature* (Publ. Mod. Lang. Assoc., 1894); *On a Legend of the Alban Lake* told by Dionysius of Halicarnassus (A. J. P. XVI); *Some Irregular Forms of the Elegiac Distich* (A. J. P. XVI); *The Tale of Gyges and the King of Lydia* (A. J. P. XXIII); *Pupula*

scholars have wrought immortal things. Fifty-six was the age of the Elder Pliny when he died, and what his nephew ascribed to his uncle might well be ascribed to my foster-son, 'acre ingenium, incredibile studium, summa vigilantia'. But with all this alert and penetrating intellect, this surpassing enthusiasm, this wide and quick vision, KIRBY SMITH's outstanding trait was his indomitable youthfulness of spirit. In one of his latest papers he himself has recognized this among his striking characteristics—recognized it with that delightful candour which breathes through all his writings. I have sometimes thought that this youthful elasticity may have wrought him injustice. He moved with so quick and springy a step through so vast a domain of literature that those who cannot think of learning without pedantry were puzzled by his easy command of wide stretches not only of his own special field but of English, French, and Italian literature. And what he learned he reproduced with a facile, graceful, humorous touch which lighted up every theme that he handled. Nor did he limit his range to the sphere of literature. He was a close observer of social life, and antiquity lived again in him. And with all this he did not disdain the severe study of grammar, and the collection of arid statistics—not arid with him—was carried out with a painstaking exactness that would have done credit to those who have no other claim than exactness.

In the tablet prefixed to this halting tribute to one who for more than thirty years shared my life of study I have quoted from a late anthologist the words ὀλβιος ἐν καμάτοις, ὀλβιος ἐν θανάτῳ. \*Ὀλβιος ἐν καμάτοις, 'fortunate in his labours', emphasises his unremitting toil, his 'incredibile studium'; ὀλβιος ἐν θανάτῳ, 'fortunate in his death', is the unaffected utterance of one who has learned through suffering to envy those who have obtained their discharge before the last stage of all has brought with it decreasing vigour of performance and ever increasing sense of loneliness.

B. L. GILDERSLEEVE.

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Duplex (Studies in Honor of Basil Lanneau Gildersleeve, 1902); The Influence of Art upon Certain Traditional Passages in the Epic Poetry of Statius (Amer. Journ. Archaeol. 1903); Review of Zielinski's Clauselgesetz in Ciceros Reden (A. J. P. 1904); The Sources of Ben Jonson's 'Still to be Neat' (A. J. P. XXIX); The Ages of Man, Greek and Roman Magic, The Roman Drama, Hecate's Suppers (Encycl. of Religion and Ethics, Edinburgh, 1908 ff.); Propertius: A Modern Lover in the Augustan Age (Sewanee Review, 1917); Martial: the Epigrammatist (Sewanee Review, 1918); The Poet Ovid (Univ. of N. C. Studies in Philol. 1918); etc., etc.